FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE FOREST SERVICE

History Line

Summer 1976

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATION

To: History Coordinators
Forest Service Personnel

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Forestry Centennial. -- August 1976 marks the 100th anniversary of establishing a forestry office in the United States Department of Agriculture. Congress on August 15, 1876, appropriated $2,000 for a study and report by "a man of approved attainments" on forest conditions, the extent and distribution of woodlands, and forestry methods. Dr. Franklin B. Hough, a physician and naturalist of Lowville, New York, was appointed Forest Agent by Commissioner of Agriculture Frederick Watts on August 30. Hough's appointment originated the agency that 29 years later became the Forest Service.

Hough's prodigious efforts first aroused the public interest in forestry that eventually led to establishment of Federal and State forest reserves, public forest management, college courses in forestry, and various studies and research activities. His three pioneer reports published by the government in the late 1870s and early 1880s, received high praise from prominent scientists of his time and from Bernhard Fernow and Gifford Pinchot, who succeeded him in the office. They also gained Hough a special award from an international forestry congress in Venice in 1882. After extensive travels here and abroad to gather and digest material for his reports, Hough advanced proposals for managing the public forests based on a leasing system already being used then in Canada. Dr. Hough was instrumental in establishing the first State forest reserve, the Adirondack in New York State, in 1885.

The Forest Service plans to mark the centenary of Dr. Hough's appointment with an appropriate ceremony in Washington, D.C. A one-page summary of his accomplishments is being sent to Regional, Station, and Area offices.

50th Year for BWCA. -- June 30 was the 50th anniversary of establishment of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness in the Superior National Forest of northern Minnesota. On that date in 1926, Edward A. Sherman, Acting Chief, gave official approval to the plan of A.L. Richey, Forest Supervisor, for managing recreational development of the Border Lakes region. The plan established for the first time a Wilderness-Canoe area to be preserved in its natural state. It was a modification of the original recreational plan of Arthur Carhart made in May 1922. The Secretary of Agriculture, William M. Jardine, gave specific endorsement to the plan on September 17, 1926, in a nine-page memorandum reserving "not less than" 1,000 square miles of wilderness.

New Historian. -- David A. Clary has assumed the position of Head, History Section of the Forest Service, as of July 18, 1976. He will have overall responsibility for the historical programs of the Service. Dave comes to the position from a career in the National Park Service that began in 1968 with his work as a historian at Fort Davis National Historic Site, Texas. Following that assignment came four years in the Park Service Division of History in Washington, where he worked in the history and historic preservation programs of NPS, and served as Coordinator of Environmental and Protection Activities for the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. In that role, he developed government-wide guidelines for the discussion of cultural resources in environmental impact statements, and for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 11593. He also prepared policies and standards for historic preservation and historical research, and was an adviser to the Alaska Task Force. Dave has spent the last two years as Regional Historian in the NPS Midwest Region, based in Omaha, where he worked in historic preservation and completed an inventory of the region's historic resources and nominated all of them to the National Register of Historic Places. On the outside, Dave's work has been in military and western history, and he is a member of several professional organizations. Among his publications is a history of Yellowstone National Park. His degrees are from Indiana University and the University of Texas.

Completed Projects. -- A number of book and interview projects have been completed since the last issue of this newsletter. A major one is the study of the Forest Service by the Forest History Society entitled, "The Greatest Good of the Greatest Number: A History of the U.S. Forest Service," compiled by Dr. Harold K. Steen, a forester and historian. Just published by the University of Washington Press, copies are being furnished to offices throughout the Forest Service to allow employees to become more familiar with the background of their agency as seen by a young western historian who also served the Forest Service in research and National Forest administration.

"Trees, Prairies, and People: Tree Planting in the Plains States," by Dr. Wilmon Droze, provost of Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas, is another book project just completed. Copies will also be distributed to Forest Service offices. This book covers the famous Shelterbelt Project of the 1930s and early 1940s. Many of the plantings made then are still visible throughout the Great Plains to the benefit of agriculture and esthetics in that region.

A new oral history interview entitled, "Forty-Three Years in the Field with the U.S. Forest Service," conducted by Elwood Maunder, Executive Director, Forest History Society, with Charles A. Connaughton, retired Forest Service Regional Forester and Experiment Station Director, was issued this spring by the Society. Maunder has completed interviews with Dr. V.L. Harper, retired Research Chief for the Forest Service. This fall, he will interview retired Forest Service researchers Clarence Forsling and George Jemison. His interviews with former Chief R.E. McArdle, published a year ago, were reviewed in Journal of Forestry by Samuel Dana, and in the American Archivist (April 1976) by Dr. Harold Pinkett.

The Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley, this spring finished editing and binding of interviews with former Assistant Chief Edward Crafts ("Congress and the Forest Service, 1950-62," 69 pages) and the

late Edward I. Kotok, who was former Assistant Chief for Research and for State and Private Forestry. He was also former Director of the agency's Experiment Station at Berkeley.

The Crafts volume includes material on interagency and timber industry relations, and changes in Forest Service policies in addition to Congressional relations.

The Kotok volume, subtitled, "The U.S. Forest Service: Research, State Forestry, and FAO," also includes an interview with Mrs. Kotok and runs to 346 pages.

We are now preparing a volume on Leon F. Kneipp, former Assistant Chief for Land Acquisition and Planning. It will complete the series begun over 10 years ago under sponsorship of Resources for the Future. The Forest Service has financed the final editing and printing.

Eliot Zimmerman, retired Director of Cooperative Forest Fire Control for the Forest Service, has written under contract a brief summary history of the agency's State and Private Forestry operations. This document expands and updates the in-Service publication originated by Earl S. Peirce and revised by William J. Stahl in 1969, entitled, "Cooperative Forest Fire Control, A History of Its Origin and Development Under the Weeks and Clarke-McNary Acts." The new manuscript reviews earlier developments of Federal-State cooperative activities and also covers the cooperative forest management program and other activities including pest control, rural fire control, forestry incentives program, forestry progress in the States, and Regional fire compacts.

An interpretive history of the Weeks Law of 1911 and the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 has been written by Gerald E. Ogden, a staff historian of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's History Branch. The draft is now undergoing review in the Forest Service which sponsored the work.

Ogden's "Historical Bibliography of the U.S. Forest Service," published in 1973 by the Forest History Society for the Forest Service, was revised and updated by Ogden and is in the process of publication. The publisher is the Agricultural History Society at the University of California, Davis, California.

Another recent book about the Forest Service was published by John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland, entitled, "The Forest Service: A Study of Public Land Management (1876-1975)." It is by Glen O. Robinson, former Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission.

The Forest History Society has completed two major compilations: "North American Forest and Conservation History: A Bibliography," gathered by Ronald J. Fahl; and "North American Forest History: A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States and Canada," put together by Richard C. Davis. The first has over 8,000 entries, many annotated, of books, articles, and unpublished master and doctoral theses. The latter cites nearly 4,000 collections in over 350 libraries and other institutions. Work on the two volumes was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Publisher is ABC-Clio Press, Santa Barbara, California. The Society has also

published a Guide to its Oral History Collection which covers the past 25 years and includes over 200 interviews.

The Forest History Society began a new project, "The Forest in American History: A Study of Forest Utilization and Conservation," with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. They plan publication in 1977.

An oral history interview with George L. Drake, Vice-president of Simpson Logging Company, Seattle, was published by the Society. A former Forest Service man, he retired from Simpson in 1954.

The Society has received the correspondence, diaries, and photos of the late Thomas H. Gill, from the Society of American Foresters. Gill was a pioneer leader in international and tropical forestry.

I. Forest and Range Experiment Stations

Pacific Northwest Station. -- "Early Forestry Research, A History of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, 1925-75," was issued in February. Author Ivan Doig made use of a recently compiled detailed manuscript history of Robert Cowlin, retired Station Director, and also taped interviews with the former directors. It is a 38-page illustrated booklet. Doig was also author of the article, "The Beginning of the Forest Survey," in the January issue of the Journal of Forest History, and he assisted Harold Steen in preliminary editing of Steen's new history of the Forest Service.

Rocky Mountain and old Southwestern Stations. -- A history is to be released in August, compiled by Raymond Price, retired Director of both Stations. It has been checked by 10 former Station Directors and edited by the Station editorial staff.

Lake States Experiment Station. -- History is being compiled by Paul O. Rudolph, retired principal silviculturist. Also, a history of the Forest Watershed Lab at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, is being written by Richard S. Sartz. He will include all work of the Lake States and the Central States' Stations. And the recently completed history of the Carbondale, Illinois, unit is being readied for publication.

Southeastern Experiment Station. -- Edwin Bjorkman, a professional writer-reporter with some books to his credit, is working on this one under the Emergency Jobs Program, and is tape recording interviews with several retirees. Bob Biesterfeldt, Station editor, has found an early history of the Station in the form of a 75-page typed manuscript done in 1934-35 by a professional journalist. He plans to publish excerpts for in-Service use. This manuscript gives a review and appraisal with some personal views.

Forest Products Laboratory. -- Just published is, "Wood in the First 200 Years of USA--1776-1976," which includes a projection to 2076. Authors are Herb Fleischer and John Youngquist.

Fernow Experimental Forest (Parsons, West Virginia). -- A history is being written by retiree Dick Trimble.

Priest River Experimental Forest originally Experiment Station) Idaho. -- A history is being compiled by Chuck Wellner, retired researcher. It celebrated its 65th anniversary in August.

A history of the white pine blister rust control program is being started by Warren Benedict, retired director of the program.

Histories have been compiled by two Washington Office divisions: International Forestry (L.M. LaMois), and Program and Policy Analysis (Clayton Libeau).

E.L. Demmon, retired Forest Service Experiment Station Director, has published a new book, "Opportunities in Forestry Careers," in the Vocational Manual Series.

II. National Forest System

Pacific Northwest Region (6). -- Larry Mays' finished draft is under review by the Regional Office. A history of Wenatchee NF is being written.

Southern Region (8). -- Taped interviews with retirees are planned. Charles Blankenship, Recreation Chief on the Jefferson NF, is writing a history of that Forest. The Monongahela NF has a manuscript history on hand and is seeking to prepare it for publication. The National Forests in Florida are making inquiries for histories of the Osceola and Ocala. Former Supervisor, Bob Collins' history of the Daniel Boone (formerly Cumberland) NF is being published by University of Kentucky Press ($7.50, 349 pages).

A series of 13 taped interviews and notes made with men associated with the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie River Basin Project in Mississippi, by Professor Michael Mamarato of the University of Mississippi, will be placed in the University's Archives.

Northern Region (1). -- Floyd Sharrock of University of Montana has been appointed Regional archeologist. He conducted its 1973 inventory and prepared a field guide. Two historical and archeological river basin reports have been completed; one of western Montana and one of the Snake River Basin. Ralph Space is revising and updating his Clearwater history. Warren Peterson is compiling a history of the Kaniksu-Pend Oreille-Priest River National Forests (combined last year into the Idaho Panhandle NF). Volume 4 in the Region's series, "Early Days in the Forest Service," 269 pages of further reminiscences of retirees, has been published.

The Northern Rocky Mountain Section of Society of American Foresters is planning a bibliography of private, State and Federal forest activities in Montana. E. Arnold Hansen, Forest Service retired, is chairman.

Eastern Region (9). -- A history of the Chippewa NF, Minnesota, is being compiled by Stan Johnson, who just retired after 41 years on the job there.

California Region (5). -- A committee has been organized with Gil Davis of Yreka as chairman to gather history of the Klamath NF through interviews with retirees.

Intermountain Region (4). -- Thomas Ortman has written a history of his old Ranger District (Krassel) on the Payette NF, central Idaho, called "Bury My Soul Near Krassel Hole." (20 pages, Mimeo.)

Miscellaneous. -- Another book on the Forest Service, "The Forest Service and Amenity Values, 1905-1916," by Professor Lawrence Rakestraw of Michigan Technological University, has been published by San Jose State University, California.

The University of Washington Library, with a special grant from the American Bicentennial Commission, is completing a North Cascade History Project.

Forest Service people planning to conduct oral history interviews can be helped by studying a manual written by Willa K. Baum, Director of the Oral History Office at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. It is entitled, "Oral History for the Local Historical Society," and is available in the West from the Conference of California Historical Societies, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California 95204. In the East, it is being issued by the American Association for State and Local History, 1315 Eighth Avenue, South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. Price is $2.25.

The book, "Interpretation of Historic Sites," by William Alderson and Shirley Low is also available from AASLH. Price is $6.00.

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